

AML Pilot Timeline and Process Overview

AML Pilot projects are chosen by DMME's advisory committee to be submitted to the Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining (OSMRE) for review. This review process evaluates the concept of the project and whether it meets the intent of the grant program. It may take several months to complete during which revisions, clarifications, and additional information may be requested. Applicants are also evaluated to ensure compliance with financial rules and regulations. Projects that are unable to pass OSMRE review will not receive funding.

The next stage is project development. This includes coordinating proposed up-front expenditures, preparation of documents for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and any other Endangered Species Act requirements needed for the project. OSMRE requires that, at minimum, an Environmental Assessment be prepared for each AML Pilot project. These documents are submitted to OSMRE for evaluation. Additionally, concurrently prepared project plans are evaluated by DMME.

Following environmental document and plan approval, OSMRE and DMME will authorize the construction stage to begin during which on-the-ground construction, property purchases and other approved project activities occur. No such expenditures or procurement of expenditures may occur prior to this stage.

The applicant is typically responsible for all project development and construction stage activities and may hire out, in accordance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act, appropriate professional and nonprofessional services toward the successful completion of the project. Additionally, applicants are required to execute a project agreement and/or contract with DMME which describes their obligations to faithfully and legally execute the project. Compliance with OSMRE's AML Pilot Guidance Document, DMME's AML Pilot Terms & Conditions, OSMRE's Federal Assistance Manual and 2 CFR Part 200, is required.